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The President's Report of the Opera. tions of the National Government the Past Year.

The Country's Foreign Relations and Recommendations for the Guidance of Congress.

Secretary Windom's Financial Policy and the Need of Tariff Revision Touched Upon.

The President's Position on th Silver Coinage Question Past Finding Out.

Dependent Policy Legislation Suggested A Liberal Educational

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 .- In the senate this morning a message from the house was presented, announcing the organization of that body. Edmunds, on the part of the joint committee to wait on the president, reported that it had performed that duty, and had been informed by the president that he would communicate with the two houses by message immediately. Thereupon the mes sage from the president was announced, and the secretary of the senate proceeded to

The reading of the message was con cluded at 1:30. It was listened to with apparently close attention by the senators or both sides of the chamber. As one of the paragraphs touching on taxation was resd a democratic senator remarked in whisper, "It sounds very much like Cleveland." On motion of Sherman it was laid on the table and ordered printed. The senate then adjourned.

The committee to wait upon the president and inform him that the house was organ ized and ready to proceed to business, ap peared through Chairman McKinley and in formed the house it had performed the duty and the president would communicate with the house in writing forthwith. One of the president's secretaries then delivered the message, which was immediately read. Little attention was paid to the message The message was ordered printed and referred to committee of the whole. The message is as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: There are few transactions in the administration of the government that are even temporarily held in the confidence of those charged with the conduct of the public business. Every step taken is under the observation of an intelligent and watchful people. The state of the union is known from day to day, and suggestions as to needed legislation find an earlier voice than that which speaks in these annual communications of the president to congress.

Good will and cordiality have characterized our relations and correspondence with other governments, and the year past leaves few international questions of importance remaining to be adjusted. No obstacle is believed to exist that can long postpone the consideration and adjustment of the still pending questions upon satisfactory and honorable terms. The dealings of this government with other states have been, and should always be, marked by frankness and sincerity, our purposes avowed and our methods free from intrigue. This course has borne rich fruit in the past, and it is on duty as a nation to preserve the hostage of good repute which a century of right doing

with foreign governments has secured to us It is a matter of high significance and no less of congratulatin that the first year of the second century of our constitutional existence finds as honored guests within our borders the representatives of all the inde pendent states of North and South America, met together in earnest conference touching the best methods of perpetuating and expanding the relations of mutual interest and friendliness extended among them. That the opportunity thus afforded for promoting closer international relations and the increased prosperity of the states represented will be used for the mutual good of all, I cannot permit myself to doubt. Our people will meet with interest and confidence the result to flow from so auspicious a meeting of allied, and in a large part identical, interests. The recom mendations of this international confer ence of enlightened statesmen will have the attention of congress and its corporation in the removal of unnecessary barriers to beneficial intercourse between the nations of America; but while the commercial results which it is hoped will follow this conference are worthy of the pursuit of the great interest they have created it is be lieved that the crowning benefit will be found in the better securities which may be devised for the maintenance of harmony be tween the American nations and the settle ment of all contentions by methods that a Christian civilization can approve. While viewing with interest our national resources and products, the delegates will, I am sure, find a higher satisfaction in the evidences of unselflish friendship which everywhere attend their intercourse with our people.

Another international conference havin great possibilities for good has lately assem bled, and is now in session in this capital An invitation was extended by this govern ment, under the act of July 9, 1889, to al maritime nations to send delegates to confe touching the revision and amendment of th rules and regulations governing vessels, and The response to the invitation has been very general and very cordial. Delegates m twenty nations are present in the con seful work with great zeal and with an ar-

ie agreement to be reached may require

legislation to give its effect. The co-operation of congress is confidently relied upon. It is an interesting and unprecedented fact that the two international conferences have brought here the accredited representatives of thirty-three nations. Bolivia, Ecuador and Honduras are now represented by resident envoys of the plempotentiary grade. These states of the American system now

Our Foreign Relations,

In this connection it may be noted that all the nations of the western hemisphere, with one exception, send to Washington envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary, being the highest grade accorded to this government. The United States, or the contrary, sends envoys of lower grade to some of our sister republics. Our representative in Paraguay and Nicaragua is a inister resident, while in Berlin we send minister resident and consul general. In view of the importance of our relations with the states of the American system, ou diplomatic agents in those countries should be of the uniform rank of envoy extraordi-

be of the uniform rank of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. Several missions were so elevated during the last congress with happy effect, and I recommend the completion of the work so begun. This should include Hawaii and Hayti, in view of their relation to the American system of states. I also recommend that timely provisions be made for extending to Hawaii an invitation to be represented in the international conference now sitting in this capital.

Our relations with China have the atten tive consideration which their magnitude and interest demand. The failure of the treaty negotiated under the administration of my predecessor, for the further and more complete restriction of Chinese labor immigration, and with it the legislation of the last session of congress dependent thereon leave some questions open which congressionald now approach in that wise and just spirit which should characterize the rela spirit which should characterize the relations of two great and friendly powers. While our supreme interest demands the exclusion of a laboring element, which experience has shown to be incompatible with our social life, all steps to compass the imperative need should be accompanied with a recognition of the claim of these strangers now living among us to humane and just treatment. The accession of the and just treatment. The accession of the young emperor of China marks, we may hope, an era of progress and prosperity for the great country over which he is called to The present state of affairs in respec

to the Samoan islands is encouraging. The conference which was held in this city in conference which was held in this city in the summer of 1887, between the representatives of the United States, Germany and Great Britain was ad-journed because of the persistent divergence of views which was developed in its delib-erations. The subsequent course of people in these islands gave rise to questions of a serious character. On the 4th of February the German minister at this capital, in be half of his government proposed a resump tion of the conference at Berlin. This prop osition was accepted, as congress in Febru ary last was informed. Pursuant to the understanding thus reached, commissioner were appointed by, and with the advice an consent of the senate, who proceeded to Berlin, where the conference was renewed. The deliberations extended through several weeks and resulted in the conclusion of a treaty, which will be submitted to the senate for its approval. I trust that the efforts which have been made to effect an adjustment of this question will be productive of the permanent establishment of law and order in Samoa upon the basis of the main-tenance of the rights and interests of the

natives The questions which have arisen during

the past few years between Great Britain and the United State are in abeyance, or in course of adjustment. On the part of the government of the Dominion of Canada an ffort has been apparent during the season just ended to administer the laws and regu lations applicable to the fisheries with a little occasion for friction as was possib and the temperate representations of this government in respect of cases of undu hardship or harsh interpretations have been in most cases met with measures of transi tory relief. It is trusted that the attain ment of our just rights under existing treat ies and in view of the concurrent legisla-tion of the two contiguous countries will not be long deferred and that all existing causes of difference may be equitably ab justed. I recommend that provision b made by an international agreement for the visible marking of the water boundary between the United State and Canada in the narrow channel that join the great lakes. The convention al line therein traced by the northwester boundary survey years ago is not in all cases readily ascertainable for the settle-ment of jurisdictional questions. A just and acceptable enlargement of the list of fenses for which extradition may be claimed and granted is most desirable between this country and Great Britain. The territory of neither should become a secure harbor for the evil doers of the other through any avoidable shortcoming in this regard. A new treaty on this subject between the two powers has been recently negotiated and will soon be laid before the senate.

WITH THE VOTERS. The importance of the commerce of Cuba and Porto Rico with the United States, their nearest and principal market, justifies the expectation that the existing relations may be beneficially expanded. The imped ments resulting from varying due on navigation and from the vex tious treatment of our vessels or on navigation and from the ves-ctious treatment of our vessels on merely technical grounds of complaint, in West India ports, should be removed. The progress toward an adjustment of pending claims between the United States and Spa is not so rapid as could be desired. The nestions affecting American interest i onnection with railways constructed an perated by our citizens in Peru have It is urged that other governments in pressing Peru to the payment of claims have dis regarded the property rights of American citizens. The matter will be carfully investigated with a view to secure proper and equitable adjustment. A similar issue i now pending withPortugal. The Delagoa Ba rallway in Africa was constructed under a concession by Portugal to an American citizen and when nearly completed the road was seized by the agents of the Portuguese government. Formal protest has been made through our minister at Lisbon against this act and no proper effort will be spared to

In pursuance of the charter granted by congress and under the terms of its contract with the government of Nicaragua the Inter-oceanic Canal company has begun the ter-occanic canal company has begun the construction of an important water-way between the two occans which the organization contemplates. Grave complications for a time seemed imminent, in view of a supposed conflict of jurisdiction between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, in regard to the accessory privileges to be conceded by the latter republic toward the construction of works on the San Juan river, of which the right bank is Costa Rica territory. I am happy to learn that a friendly arrangement has been affected between the two nations. promote in every proper way the ajustment of all questions that might present obsta-cles to the completion of a work of such importance to the commerce of this country and indeed to the commercial interests of the world.

the world.

The traditional good feeling between this country and the French republic has received additional testimony in the participation of our government and people in the international exposition held at Paris In the international exposition held at Paris during the past summer. The success of our exhibitors has been gratifying. The report of the commission will be laid before congress in due season. This govern-

ment has accepted under proper reserve to its policy in foreign countries, the in vitation of the government of Belgium take part in an international congre which opens at Brussels the 16th of No vember for the purpose of devising mean ures to promote the abolition of the slav trade in Africa and to prevent the shipmen trade in Africa and to prevent the shipment of slaves by sea. Our interest in the ex-tinction of the crime against humanity in the regions where it yet survives, has been increased by the result of emancipation within our own borders. With Germany the most cordial relations continue. The questions arising from the return to the empire of Germans naturalized in this country have been considered and disposed of in a temperate spirit to the entire satis-

of in a temperate spirit to the entire satisfaction of both governments.

It is a source of great satisfaction that the internal disturbances of the republic of Hayti are at last happily ended and that an apparently stable government has been constituted. It has been duly recognized by the United States. A mixed commission now in session in this capital for the settle ment of long standing claims against the re-public of Venezuela, and it is here that a satisfactory conclusion will be speedily reached. The government has not hesitated to express its earnest desire that the boundary dispute now pending between Great Britain and Verezuela may be adjusted amicably and in strict accordance with the historic title of the parties. The acvancement of the empire of Japan has been evidenced by the recent promulgation of a new constitution valued for guarantees of liberty and providing for a responsible ministry to conduct the government. It is earnestly recommended that judicial rights and processes in Corea be established on a firm basis by providing the machinery necessary to carry out treaty stipulations in to express its earnest desire that the boundsary to carry out treaty stipulations in that regard. The friendliness of the Persian government continues to be shown by its generous treatment of Americans en gaged in missionary labors and by the cor tial disposition of the shah to encourage the enterprise of our citizens in the develop ments of Persian resources. A discussion is in progress touching the jurisdictional treaty rights of the United States in Tur-

The recent revolt in Brazil in favor of the establishment of a republican form of government is an event of great interest to the United States. Our minister at Rio de Janeiro was at once instructed to maintain friendly diplomatic relations with the profriendly diplomatic relations with the pro-visional government, and the Brazilian representatives at the capital were in-structed by the provisional government to continue their functions. Our friendly in-tercourse with Brazil has, therefore, suffered no interruption. Our minister has been further instructed to extend on the part of the government a formal and cordial recogthe government a formal and cordial recog nition of the new republic so soon as the majority of the people of Brazil shall have signified their assent to its establishment and maintenance.

The National Fina ces.

The report of the secretary of the treas-

ury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889, has been prepared and will be presented to congress. It presents with clearness the fiscal operations of the government, and I avail myself of it to obtain some facts for use here. The aggregate receipts from all sources for the year were \$387,050,058.84, derived as follows: From customs, \$233,-832,741.68; from internal revenue, \$130,881,-832,741.68; from internal revenue, \$139,881,-513.92; from miscellaneous sources, \$23,335,83.23. The ordinary expenditures for the same period were \$281,306,615.60, and the total expenditures, including the sinking funds, were \$329,579,929.25. The excess of receipts over expenditures was, after providing for the sinking fund. \$57,470,129.56. riding for the sinking fund. \$57,470,129,59 For the current fiscal year the total revenues, actual and estimated, are \$375,000,000 and the ordinary expenditures, actual and estimated, are \$250,000,000, making with the sinking fund a total expenditure of \$341,321, 116.99, leaving an estimated surplus of \$43,678,883.01. During the fiscal year there was applied to the purchase of bonds, in ad dition to those for the sinking fund, \$90,456. 172.35, and during the first quarter of the current year the sum of \$37,838,337.77, all of which were credited to the sinking fund. The revenues for the fiscal year ending July an estimated surplus for that year of \$43, 569,522,30, which is mere likely to be in

reased than reduced when the actual trans

ctions are written up.

The existence of so large an actual and anticipated surplus should have the immediate attention of congress with a view to reducing the receipts of the treasury to the needs of the government as closely as may be. The collection of moneys not needed for public uses imposes an unnecessary buren upon our people and the presence of s den upon our people and the presence of so large a surplus in the public vaults is a dis-turbing element in the conduct of private business. It has called into use expedients for putting it into circulation of very questionable propriety. We should not collect revenue for the purpose of anticipating our bonds beyond the requirements of the sink-ing fund, but any unappropriated surplus in the treasury should be so used, as there is no lawful way of returning the money circulation and the profit realized by the government offers substantial advangovernment offers substantial advantages. The loaning of public funds to the banks without interest upon the security of government bonds I regard as an unauthorized and dangerous expedient. It results in a temporary and unatural increase of the banking capital of natural increase of the banking capital of favored localities and compels a cautious and gradual recall of the deposits to avoid injury to the commercial interests. It is not to be expected that the banks having rangement is continued. They now practi-cally get interest both upon the bonds and their proceeds. No further use should be made of this method of getting the surplu into circulation and the deposits now out-standing should be gradually withdrawn and applied to the purchase of bonds. It is fortunate that such a use can be made of the surplus and for some time to come of any casual surplus that may exist after congress has taken the necessary steps for reduction of the revenue. Such legislation should be promptly but very considerably

I recommend a revision of our tariff law ally conceded, and an agreement upon the evils and inconveniences to be remedied and the best methods for their correction will probably not be difficult. Uniformity of valuation at all our ports is essential, and effective measures should be taken to secure effective measures should be taken to secur it. It is equally desirable that questions af fecting rates and classifications should be promptly decided.

The preparation of a new schedule of customs duties is a matter of great delicacy, because of its effect upon the business of the because of its effect upon the business of the country, and of great difficulty, by reason of the wide divergence of opinion as to the objects that may be promoted by such legislation. The same disturbance of business may perhaps result from a consideration of this subject by congress, but this temporary ill effect will be reduced to a minimum by section and the assurance which the country action and the assurance which the country sonable protection of our home industries The inequalities of the law should be ad justed, but the protective principles should be maintained and fairly applied to the products of our farms as well as our shops. These duties necessarily have relation to other things besides the public revenue. We

vision to include all of these. The necessary reduction in our public revenues can, I am sure, be made without making the smaller burden more onerous than the larger by reason of the disabilities and limitation, by reason of the disabilities and limitation, which the process of reduction puts upon both capital and labor. The free list can very safely be extended by placing thereon articles that do not offer injurious competition to such domestic products as our home labor can supply.

The removal of the internal tax upon tobacco would relieve an important agricultural product from a burden which was important by becomes a supply the supplies of the supplies to the supplies of the s

posed only because our revenue from custon duties was insufficient for the public needs If safe provision against fraud can be de vised the removal of the tax upon spirits used in the arts and manufactures would at least offer an unobjectionable method of re-

THE COUNTRY'S CASE.

A table presented by the secretary of the treasury showing the amount of money of all kinds in circulation each year from 1878 to the present time is of interest. It appears that the amount of national bank notes in circulation has decreased during that period \$114,109,729, of which \$37,709, 229 is chargeable to those of last year. The withdrawal of bank circulation will ne sarily continue under existing conditions It is probable the adoption of the suggestions made by the comptroller of the cur rency, viz., that the minimum deposit of bonds for the establishment of banks be reduced and that an issue of notes to the par value of the bond be allowed, would help to maintain the bank circulation, but while this withdrawal of bank notes has been go ing omthere has been a large increase in th ing on there has been a large increase in the amount of gold and silver coin in circulation and in the issues of gold and silver certificates. The total amount of money of all kinds in circulation on March, 1878, \$805,793,807, while on October 1, 1889, the total amount was \$145,018,000. There was an increase of \$23,417,552 in gold, and \$57,554,100 in standard silver dollars; of \$72,211,249 in gold certificates; of gold, and \$57,554.100 in standard silver dol-lars; of \$72,211,249 in gold certificates; of \$276,219.715 in silver certificates, and of \$14,073,787 in United States notes, making a total of \$713,976,402. There was during the same period a decrease of \$114,109,729 in bank certificates, and of \$642,481 in sub-sidary silver. The net increase was \$599,-225,133. The circulation per capita has in-creased about \$5 during the time covered by the table referred to. The total coinage of silver dollars was, on November 1, 1889, \$243,638,001, of which \$283,539,521 were in the treasury vaults and \$60,098,480 were in circulation. Of the amount in the vaults, circulation. Of the amount in the vaults, \$277,319,944 were represented by outstanding silver certificates, leaving \$6,219,577, not in circulation and not represented by certifi-cates. The law requiring the purchase by the treasury of two million dollars worth of silver bullion each month to be coined into silver bullion each month to be coined into silver dollars of 412\(^3\) grains has been *b-served by the department, but neither the present secretary nor his predecessors has deemed it safe to exercise the discretion given by law to increase the monthly purchase to \$4,000,000. When the law was enacted, Feb. 28, 1878, the price of silver in the market was \$1.20 4-10 per ounce, making the bullion value of a dollar 33 cents. Since that time the price has fallen as low as 91.2 cents per ounce, reducing the bullion value of the dollar to 70.6 cents. Within the last few months the market price has somewhat advanced and on the first day of November last the bullion value of the sil-

ver dollar was 72 cents.

MIXED ON SILVER COINAGE. The evil anticipations which have acc The evil anticipations which have accompanied the coinage and use of silver dollars, have not been realized. As a coin it has not had general use and the public treasury has been compelled to store it. But this is manifestly owing to the fact that its paper representative is more convenient. The representative is more convenient. The general acceptance and use of the silver cerwise discredited. Some favorable conditions have contributed to the maintaining of this practical equality in the commercial use be-tween the gold and silver dollars, but there are some of these conditions that statutory enactments do not control, and of the continuance of which we cannot be certain. I think it is clear that if we should make the coinage of silver at the present ratio we must expect the difference in bullion values of gold and silver dollars will be taken account of in commercial transactions, and I fear the same result would follow any considerable increase of the present rate of coinage. Such a result would be discreditable to our financial management should not tread the dangerous edge of such a peril and, indeed, nothing more harmful could happen to the silver interests, and safe legislation upon this subject must secure the equality of the two coins in their commercial uses. I have always been an advocate of the result of the result.

cate of the use of silver in our currency. We are large producers of that metal and should not discredit it. To the plan which will be presented by the secretary of the treasury for the issuance of notes of certifi-cates upon the deposit of silver bullion at its market value, I have been able to give only a hasty examination, owing to the press of other matters and to the fact that t has been so recently formulated. The letails of such a law require careful consideration, but the general suggested ques-tion by him seems to satisfy the purpose to continue the use of silver in connection with our currency, and at the same time to ob-viate the dangers of which I have spoken. At a later day I may communicate further with congress upon this subject.

Naturalization and Immigration Questions continue to arise in our rela

tions with several countries in respect to the rights of naturalized citizens. Especially is this the case with France, Italy, Russia and Turkey, and to a less extent with Switzerland. From time to time earnest efforts have been made to regulate this subject by conventions. An improper use of naturali-zation should not be permitted, but it is important that those who have been duly naturalized should everywhere be accorded recognition of the rights pertaining to the civilization of the country of their adoption. The appropriateness of special conventions for that purpose is recognized in treaties which this government has concluded with a number of European powers and it is advisable that the difficulties which now arise in our relations with other countries, on the same subject, should be similarly adjusted. Our naturalization laws should be so revised as to make the inquiry into the char acter and disposition toward our governacter and disposition toward our govern-ment of the persons applying for citizen-ship more thorough. This can only be done by taking fuller control of the examina-tions, by fixing the time for hearing such applications and by requiring the presence of some one who shall represent the gov-ernment in the inquiry. Those who are the enemies of social order or who come to our shores to swell the injurious influence and to extend the evil practices of any associato extend the evil practices of any associa-tion that defies our laws, should not only be denied citizenship but a domicile.

The enforcement of the Chinese exclusion act has been found to be very difficult on the northwestern frontier. Chinamen landborder owing to the impossibility with the force at command of the customs officers of guarding so long an inland line. The secretary of the interior has authorized the de to enforce the law. The Dominion exacts a head tax of \$50 for each Chinaman landed and when these persons in defiance of our law cross into our territory and are apprehended, our officers do not know what to do with them, as the dominion authori-ties will not suffer them to be sent back without a second payment of the tax. An without a second payment of the tax. At effort will be made to reach an understand ing that will remove this difficulty.

Judged by modern standards, we are prac-

structures we have would enhance, rather than diminish, the perils of their garrisons, if subjected to the fire of improved guns. and very few are so located as to give full effect to the greater range gun-such guns as we are now making for coast defense use This general subject has had consideration in congress for years, and the appropria-tions for the construction of large rifled guns made one year ago, was, I am sure, the expression of a purpose to provide suitable works in which these guns might be works in which takes guns might be mounted. An appropriation now made for that purpose would not advance the completion of the works beyond our ability to supply them with effective guns. The security of our coast cities against foreign attacks should not rest altogether in the friendly disposition of other nations. There friendly disposition of other nations. There ould be a second line wholly in our own keeping. I urgently recommend an appro-priation at this session for the construction of such works in our much exposed harbors. I approve the suggestion of the secretary of war that provisions be made for encamping companies of national guards in our coast works for a specified time each year, and for their training in the use of heavy guns. His suggestion that an increase of the artillery force of the array is desirable. he artillery force of the army is desirable

is also, in this connection, commended to the consideration of congress.

The improvement of our important rivers and harbors should be promoted by the nec-essary appropriation. Care should be taken that the government is not committed to the prosecution of works not of public and general advantage, and that relative useful ness of works of this class is not overlooked. So far as this work can ever be said to be completed I do not doubt that the end would be sooner and more economically completed I do not doubt that the end would be sooner and more economically reached if fewer separate works were un-dertaken at some time and those selected for their greater general interest were more rapidly pushed to completion. A work once considerably begun should not be subjected to the risk and deterioration which inter-rupted or insufficient appropriation neces-

The assault made by David S. Terry on the person of Judge Field, of the supreme court of the United States, at Lathrop, Cala., in August last, and the killing of the assailant by a deputy United States marshal who was deputized to accompany Justice Field and protect him from violence at the hands of Terry in connection with legal proceedings which have followed suggest questions which in my judgment are worthy of congress. I recommend that more definite provision be made by law not only for protection of federal officers, but for a full trial for such cases in the United States courts. In recommending such legislation I do not impeach either the general adequacy of the provisions made by the state laws for the protection of all citizens or the general disposition of those charged with the execution of such laws to give protection to the officers of the United States. The duty of protecting its officers as such and punishing those who assault them on account of their official acts, should not be devolved expressly or by acquiescence Field and protect him from violence at the be devolved expressly or by acquiescence upon local authorities. Events which have been brought to my attention, happening in other parts of the country, have also suggested the propriety of extending, by legis-lation, fuller protection to those who may be called as witnesses in courts of the United States. The law compels those who are supposed to have knowledge of public offenses to attend upon our courts and grand juries and give evidence. There is a manifest resulting duty that these witnesses shall be protected from injury on account of their testimony. The investigation of criminal offenses are often readered futile and was

shment of crime impossible by the intimi provision should be made for the establish

ent of such courts.
The salaries of the judges of the district independent and comfortable support.

Earnest attention should be given by congress to a consideration of the question how far the restraints of those combinations of capital commonly called trusts is a matter of federal jurisdiction. When organized as they often are to crush out all healthy competition, to monopolize the pro duction or sale of an article of commerce and general necessity, they are dangerous conspiracies against the public good and should be made the subject of prohibition

tention of congress by my predecessors. The enactment of such a law would be eminently wise and just.

The enactment of a national bankrupt

The Indians and Their Lands

ess people. The reservations are now ge

laws relating to negotiations with the Sioux Indians, of Dakota, for a relinquishment of a portion of their lands to the United States, and for dividing the remainder into tically without coast defense. Many of the separate reservations. Both were approved

on the same day, March 2. The one sub mitted to the Indians a specific proposition; the other (section 3 of the Indian ap propriation act) authorized the presiden appoint commissioners to negotiate with to appoint commissioners to negotiate with these Indians for the accomplishment of some general purpose, and request that any agreement made should be submitted to congress for publication. On the 16th day of April last, I appointed Hon.Chas. Foster, of Ohio; Hon. William Warner, of Mis-souri, and Major-General George Crook, of the United States agreement supports the United States army, commissioners un der the last named acts. They were, how ever, authorized and directed first to su mit to the Indians the definite proposition made to them by the act first mentioned, and only in the event of a failure to secure the assent of the requisite number to the proposition to open negotiations for modified terms under the

The work of the commission was prolonged number was, it is said, finally obtained to the proposition made by congress, although the report of the commission has not yet been submitted. In view of these facts I shall not, as present advised, deem it necssary to submit the agreement to congress or ratification, but it will in due course be cres of land.

Nov. 6, but no results have yet been ob-tained, nor is it believed a conclusion can be immediately expected. The cat-tle syndicate now occupying the will yet obtain for it a favorable co THE OPENING OF ORLAHOMA

enses are often rendered futile, and pun-

The necessity of providing some more speedy methods for disposing of the cases which now come for final adjustment to the supreme court, becomes every year more apparent and urgent. The plan of providing some intermediate courts having final appellate jurisdiction of certain classes of questions and cases has, I think, received a more general approval from the bench and bar of the country than any other. With-out attempting to discuss, I recommend that

courts in many of the districts are in my judgment inadequate. I recommend that all such salaries now below \$5,000 per annum be increased to that amount. It is quite true that the amount of labor per-formed by these judges is very unequal, but as they cannot properly engage in other pur-suits to supplement their incomes, the sal-ary should be such in all cases as to provide

and even penal legislation.

The subject of an internal The subject of an international copyright has been frequently commended to the at-

law of a character to be a permanent part of our general legislation is desirable. It should be simple in its methods and inex-pensive in its administration.

The report of the secretary of the interio exhibits the transactions of the government with the Indian tribes. Substantial progress has been made in the education of the hildren of school age and in the allotment of lands to adult Indians. It is to be regretted that the policy of breaking up the tribal relations and of dealing with the earlier in our legislation. Large reserva-tions held in common and the maintenance of the authority of the chiefs and head men have deprived the individual of every in-centive to the exercise of thrift, and the annuity has contributed an affirmative impulse toward a state of confirmed pauperism. Our treaty stipulation should be observed with fidelity and our legis-lation should be highly considerate of erally surrounded by white settlements. We can no longer push the Indian back into the can no longer push the Indian back into the wilderness, and it remains only by every suitable agency to push him upward into the estate of a self-supporting and responsible citizen. For the adult the first step is to locate him on a farm, and for the child to place him in a school. School attendance should be promoted by every moral agency and those failing should be compelled. The national schools for Indians have been very successful and should be multiplied, and as far as possible should be so organized and far as possible should be so organized and conducted as to facilitate the transfer of the schools to the states or territories in which they are located, when the Indians in a neighborhood have accepted citizenship and have been otherwise fitted for such a trans-fer. This condition of things will be attained slowly, but it will be hastened by keeping it in mind, and in the meantime that co-opera-tion between the government and the mis-sion school, which has wrought much good, should be cordially and impartially sus-

The last congress enacted two distinct

other acts.

ubmitted for information. This agreement cleases to the United States about 9,000,000 THE CHEROKEE NEGOTIATIONS commission provided for by section The commission provided for by section 14 of the Indian appropriation bill to negotiate with the Cherokee Indians (and all other Indians owning or claiming lands lying west of the ninety-sixth degree of longitude, for the cession to the United States of all such lands was constituted by the appointment of Hon. Lucius Fairchild, of Wisconsin; Hon. John F. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, and Hon. Alfred M. Wilson of Arkanasa

and Hon. Alfred M. Wilson, of Arkansas and organized on June 29 last. Their firs conference with the representatives of the Cherokees was held at Tahlequah, July 29, with no definite result. Gen. John F. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, was prevented by ill health from taking part in the conference. His death, which occurred recently is justly and generally lamented by a peo-ple he had served with conspicuous gallan-try in war and with great fidelity in peace. The vacancy thus created was filled by the appointment of Hon. Warren G. Sayre, of Indiana. A second conference between the commission and the Cherokees was begun the syndicate now occupying the lands for grazing purposes is clearly one of the agencies responsible for the obstruction of our negotiations with the Cherokees. The large body of agricultural lands constituting what is known as the "Cherokee outlet" ought not to be and can include the additional programme and for the adnot long be held for grazing and for the advantage of a few against the public interests and the best advantage of the Indians themselves. I cannot but believe that the advan tageous character of the offer made by the United States to the Cherokee nation for a full release of these lands as compared with other suggestions now made to them

Under the agreement made between the United States and the Muskogee or Creek nation of Indians, an absolute title was se-cured by the United States to about three and one-half million acres of land. Section 12 of the general Indian appropriation act, pproved March 2, 18-9, made provisions for he purchase by the United States from the Seminole tribe of a certain portion of their land. The delegates of the Seminole nation, having first duly evidenced to me their power to act in that behalf, delivered a proper release and conveyance to the use of was accepted by me and testified to be in compliance with the statute. By the term of both the acts referred to, all the lands so purchased were declared to be a part of the public domain and open to settlement within the homestead law. But the land cm braced in these purchases, being in the ag gregate about five and a half million acres, had already, under the terms of the treaty of 1886, been acquired by the United States 1,887,736 acres surrounded on all sides by lands in the occupancy of Indian tribes Congress had provided no civil government for the people who were to be invited by my proclamation to settle upon these lands except as the new court which had been es-tablished at Muskogee or the United States courts in some of the adjoining states had power to enforce the general laws of the power to enforce the general laws of the United States. In this condition of things I was quite reluctant to open the lands to settlement, but in view of the fact that several thousand persons, many of them with their families, had gathered upon the borders of the Indian territory with a view of securing homesteads on the deeded lands and that delay would involve them in much loss and suffering, I did, on the 23d day of May last, issue a proclamation declaring that the lands therein described would be open to settlement under scribed would be open to settlement under the provisions of the law on the 22d day of April following, at 12 o'clock noon. Two land districts had been established and the offices were open for the transaction of busi ness when the appointed time arrived. It is much to the credit of the settlers that they very generally observed the limitation as to the time when they might enter the territory. Care will be taken that those who entered in violation of the law do not se-Cure the advantage they unfairly sought.

There was a good deal of apprehension that
the strife for locations would result in much
violence and bloodshed, but happily these

anticipations were not realized. It is estimated that there are now in the territory about 60,000 people and several considerable towns have sprung up, for which temporary municipal governments and nine churches have been established and three daily and five weekly newspapers are published in this city whose charter and ordinances have only the sanction of the ordinances have only the sanction of the voluntary acquiesence of the people from day to day. Oklahoma City has a population of 5,000 and is proportionately as well provided as Guthrie with churches, schools and newspapers. Other towns and villages have populations of from one hundred to a thousand settled over the territory. In order to secure the peace of this new community in the absence of civil government, I directed General Merritt, commanding the department of the Missouri, to act in the department of the Missouri, to act i United States to preserve the peace and upon their requisition to use the troops to aid them in executing warrants and quieting any riots or breaches of the peace that might occur. He was further directed he settlers, and believing that the introdu traint or regulation existed would endar the public peace, and in view of the facts that such liquors must first be intro-duced into the Indian reservations before reaching the white settlements, I further directed the general commanding to enforce the law relating to the introduction of ardent spirits into the Indian country. The presence of the troops has given a sense of security to the well-disposed citizens and has tended to restrain the lawless. In one instance the officer in immediate command of the troops went further than I deemed justifiable in supporting the de facto municipal government of Guthrie, and he was so directed and informed to limit the interference of the military to the support of the marshals on the limit indicated in the original order. I very urgently recommend that concrete at once provide a territorial covernment. congress at once provide a territerial government for these people. Serious questions which may at any time lead to violent outbreaks are awaiting the institution of courts for their peaceful adjustment. The American genius for self government has

been well illustrated in Oklahoma, but it is neither safe nor wise to leave these people longer to the expedients which have tem-porarily served them.

Needs of Alaska,

Provision should be made for the acquisiion of titles to town lots in towns now esablished in Alaska, for locating of townships and for the establishment of municipal governments. Only the mining laws have been extended to the territory and no other form of title to lands can now be obtained. The general land laws were framed with reference to the disposition of agricultural lands, and it is doubtful if their operation in Alaska would be beneficial. We have fortunately not extended to Alaska the mistaken policy of establishing a reservation for the Indian tribes and can deal with them from the beginning as individuals with, I am sure, better results; but any disposition of the public lands and any regulations relating to timber and to the fisheries should have a kindly regard for their interests. Having no power to levy taxes interests. Having no power to levy taxes, the people of Alaska are wholly dependent upon the general government to whose revenue the seal fisheries make a large annual contribution, and appropriations for all pur-poses should neither be overlooked nor stinted. The smallness of the population and the great distances between the settle-ments offer serious obstacles to the estab-lishment of the usual territorial form of overnment, perhaps the organization of several sub-districts with a small municipal ouncil of limited power, for each would be

afe and useful. Attention is called in this con the suggestions of the secretary of the treasury relating to the establishment of another port of entry in Alaska, and of other needed customs facilities and regulations. In the administration of land laws the policy of facilitating in every proper way the adjustment of honest clause of individual settlers. facilitating in every proper way the adjust-ment of honest claims of individual settlers on public lands has been pursued.

Building Up a Navy.

The report of the secretary of the navy hows a reorganization of the ousiness of the departments that will, I do not doubt promote the efficiency of each. In general, atisfactory progress has been made in the onstruction of new ships of war authorized by congress. The first vessel of the new navy, the Dolphin, was subjected to very severe trial tests and to very much criti cisim, but it is gratifying to be able to state that a cruise around the world, from which she has recently returned, has demonstrated that she is a first-class vessel of her rate. The reports of the secretary show that while the effective force of the navy is steadily increasing by reason of improved build and armament of the new ships, the number of our ships fit for sea duty grows very slowly. We had on the 4th of March last thirty-seven serviceable ships, and though four have since been added to the list, the total has not been increased, because in the meantime four have been lost or condemned. Twenty-six additional vessels have been authorized and appropriated for, but it is probable that when they are completed our list will be increased only to forty-two, a gain of five. The old wooden ships are disappearing almost as fast as new vessels are added. These facts carry their own argument. One of the new ships may in fighting strength be equal to the old, but it cannot do the cruising duties of two. cisim, but it is gratifying to be able to state it cannot do the cruising duties of two.

It is important, therefore, that we should have a more rapid increase in the number of serviceable ships. I concur in the recommendation of the secretary that the construction of eight armoured ships, three gunboats and five torpedo boats be authorized.

An appalling calamity befell three of our naval vessels on duty at the Samoan Islands, in the harbor of Apa in March last, involving the loss of four officers and forty-seven seamen, and of two vessels, the Trenton and Vandalia, and the disabling of the third, the Nipsic. Three vessels of the German navy also in the harbor shared with our vessels the force of the hurricane, and suffered even more heavily. While mourning the brave officers and men who died facing with high resolve perils greater than those of battle, it is most gratifying to state that the credit of is most gratifying to state that the credit of the American navy for seamanship, courage and generosity, was magnificently sustained in the storm beaten harbor of Apia.

The Public Lands

The number of pending cases heard during the preceding administration has been greatly increased under the operation of orders for a time suspending final action in a large part of cases originating in the west and northwest, and by the subsequent use of unusual methods of examination. Only those who are familiar with the conditions under which our agricultural lands have been settled can appreciate the serious and often fatal consequences to a settler of a policy that puts his title under suspicion or delays the issuance of his patent. While care is taken to prevent and expose fraud, it should not be imputed without reason. The manifest purpose of the homestead and preemption laws was to promote the settlement of the public domain by persons having a bona fide intent to make a home on the selected lands. Where this intent is well eslected lands, Where this intent is well es-tablished and the requirements of the law have been substantially complied with, the claimant is entitled to a prompt and friendly consideration of his case; but where there is reason to believe that the claimant is the mere agent of another who is seeking to evade a law intended to prois seeking to evade a law intended to pro-mote small holdings and to secure by fraud-ulent methods, large tracts of timber and other lands, both principal and agents should not only be thwarted in their fraudulent purpose, but should be made to feel the full penalties of our criminal statutes. The law should be so administered as not The law should be so administered as not to confound these two classes and to visit penalties only upon the latter. The unsettled state of the title to large bodies of land in the territories of New Mexico and Arizona has greatly retarded the development of those territories. Provisions should be made by law for the promt trial and final adjustment before a judicial tribunal or commission of all claims based upon Mexican grants. It is not just to an intelligent and enterprising people that intelligent and enterprising people that their peace should be disturbed and their prosperity retarded by these old contentions. I express the hope that differences of opinion as to methods may yield to the argency of the case.

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT. THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

The creation of an executive department to be known as the department of agriculture by the act of February 9, last, was a wise and timely response to a request which had long been respectfully urged by the farmers of the country, but much remains to be done to perfect the organization of the department so that it fairly realizes the expectations which existed. In this connection, attention is called to suggestions contained in the report of the secretary which is herewith submitted. The need of a law office for the department such as is which is herewith submitted. The need of a law office for the department such as is provided for the other executive departments is manifest. The failure of the last congress to make the usual provision for the publication of the annual reports should be promptly remedied. The public interest in the report and its value to farming communities. I am sure, will not be diminished munities, I am sure, will not be

I recommend that the weather service be separated from the war department and be established as a bureau in the department of agriculture. This will involve an entire reorganization, both of the weather bureau and of the signal corps, making of the first a purely civil organization and of the other a purely military staff corps. purely military staff corps. The report of